

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Claudio LOCATELLI, <i>et al.</i>	)	Art Unit: To be assigned
	)	
Application No.: To be assigned	)	Examiner: To be assigned
	)	
Filed: June 30, 2003	)	
	)	
For: CARDING MACHINE AND	)	
CARDING METHOD	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, which the Examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

This information disclosure statement is being filed within one of the following time periods: within three months of the filing date of this application other than a continued prosecution application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of this international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114. Therefore, no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the documents as "prior art" against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO-1449.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

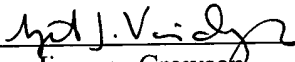
50-1349. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR  
EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

**HOGAN & HARTSON LLP**

Dated: June 30, 2003

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<b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Modified) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 82062-0052		APPLICATION NO. To be assigned			
				APPLICANT Claudio LOCATELLI, <i>et al.</i>					
				FILING DATE June 30, 2003		GROUP			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
<b>FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION</b>									
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLISHED DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	ABSTRACT		
							Yes	No	
		EP 1 207 223 A1	May 22, 2002	Europe					
		WO 98 14649	April 9, 1998	WIPO					
		EP 0 927 779 A1	July 7, 1999	Europe					
		DE 18 0 10 968 A	November 26, 1968	Germany					
		EP 0 608 686 A1	January 7, 1996	Europe					
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>									
		European Search Report							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.									